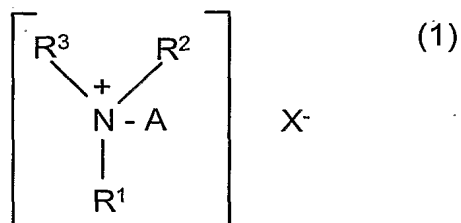


Claims

1. An ester quat composition essentially consisting of:
- a) at least 50% by weight of an ester quat compound of the formula 1

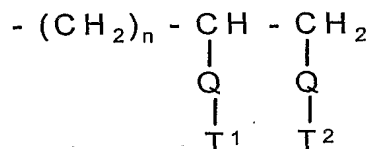
5



wherein:

A is a group of the formulas $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-Q-T}^1$ or

10



Q is $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ or $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$;

R¹ is $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-Q-T}^2$ or T³ or R³;

15 R² is $(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{-Q-T}^4$ or T⁵ or R³;

R³ is H, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl or C₁-C₆-hydroxyalkyl;

T¹, T², T³, T⁴, T⁵ are independently C₈-C₂₂-alkyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl;

n and m are integers from 1 to 6; and

X is an anion,

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- b) an organic solvent
- c) water
- d) a pH modifier.

2. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the formula 1

Q is $-O-C(O)-$;

R1 is $(CH_2)_n-Q-T_2$ or T_3 ;

5 R2 is $(CH_2)_m-Q-T_4$ or T_5 or R_3 ;

R3 is C_1-C_2 -alkyl or C_1-C_6 -hydroxyalkyl;

T1, T2, T3, T4, T5 are independently C_8-C_{22} -alkyl or C_8-C_{22} -alkenyl;

n and m are 1 or 2.

10 3. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein two or more different types of the ester quat compounds of formula 1 as defined in claim 1 are present.

15 4. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein the ester quat compound is a compound of formula 1 wherein A R^1 and R^2 are a group of the formula $-CH_2CH_2OCO-T^1$, R^2 in addition may be a group R^3 , R^2 and R^3 being independently selected, R^3 and X being as defined under formula 1.

20 5. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein the ester quat compound is present in an amount of from 50 to 90%, preferably from 65 to 75% by weight of the whole composition.

25 6. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group of short alcohols, preferably methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol or a mixture thereof.

30 7. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein the organic solvent, or a mixture of organic solvents, is present in an amount of from 5 to 30%, preferably from 15 to 25% by weight of the whole composition.

8. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein the water is present in an amount of from 5 to 20%, preferably from 7 to 15% by weight of the whole composition.
- 5 9. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any one of the previous claims, wherein the pH-modifier is an amine.
10. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein the pH modifier is selected from the group of triethanolamine, 10 monoethanolamine, ethylenediamine, dialkylamines, dialkyl methyl amines, ethoxylated alkyl amines and methyl propanol alkyl amine.
11. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any of the previous claims, wherein the pH modifier is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 3% by weight 15 of the whole composition.
12. A concentrated ester quat composition as claimed in any of the previous claims, which additionally contains any other additives or auxiliaries.